

I am appalled by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This kind of coercion is both blatantly anti-democratic (in both senses of the word) and sadly representative of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, they are capable of dictating what is shown, no matter how biased it may be, in the expectation of improving their bottom line. In the process, they cheat the public as well as their advertisers and deny freedom of choice to their affiliates. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, reflecting the views of a few corporate owners, it's more important that we see real people delivering more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.